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**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION REPORT**

**I. HEADING**

**DATE:** July 17, 2002

**SUBJECT:** Mundelein Abandon Drum Site

**FROM:** Thomas Cook, U.S. EPA OSC, Region 5, ERB, Chicago, IL

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POLREP #1 (Initial)

**II. BACKGROUND** B53Z

Response Authority: Emergency Response  
NPL Status: Non-NPL  
Latitude: 42.243°N  
Longitude: 88.004°W  
State Notification: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency  
Start Date: July 10, 2002  
Completion Date: TBD 7/10/2002

**III. SITE INFORMATION**

A. Incident Category

Emergency Response

B. Site Description

1. Site Location and Description

The site is located behind the business at 360 Townline Road, Mundelein, Illinois. The site is predominantly grassy vegetation to the north and asphalt to the south.

2. Description of Threat/Site Inspection

On July 10, 2002, an employee of a business located in the shopping center at 360 Townline Road notified the Mundelein Fire Department of illegally dumped drums behind the businesses on the grassy vegetation. The Mundelein Fire Department notified the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) of the incident. IEPA mobilized to site and began to characterize the contents of the drums including: 5 55-gallon drums, 4 30-gallon drums, and 14 5-gallon buckets. IEPA tested the drums for their lower explosive limit (LEL) and collected one Draeger tube sample which tested positive for trichloroethylene (TCE). The drum potentially containing the substance with TCE was labeled as a dry cleaning product. IEPA notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) of the need for federal assistance.

#### IV. RESPONSE ACTIVITIES

A. Situation

1. Current Situation

The illegally dumped drums have been removed from the site. Their contents have been bulked and sampled for disposal. The drummed liquid and contaminated soil have been removed from the site and are being stored at the Mundelein Public Works facility until disposal can be arranged.

2. Site Activities to Date

On July 10, 2002, the U.S. EPA activated the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START) contractor and the Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor. START and ERRS immediately began mobilization of personnel and equipment and arrived on site at 1500.

START members met U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Thomas Cook and Edward Osowski of the IEPA at the site. IEPA, U.S. EPA, and START performed a site reconnaissance. The illegally dumped drums were located on the grass. Absorbent boom was in place on the pavement because solvent from the drums was draining toward the sewer. START conducted further characterization of the drums by monitoring with a photo ionization detector (PID). Readings ranged between 92 and 1,278 parts per million (ppm). START performed a flammability test, which was negative, and a copper wire test, which was positive for the presence of chlorinated compounds. START collected 5 TCE Draeger tube samples of the drums, which ranged from 30 to 250 ppm. START collected a composite sample of the contents from a 30-gallon drum and a 5-gallon bucket, which was taken by the ERRS contractor to a laboratory for PCB analysis. The laboratory determined that the preliminary results for PCB

analysis indicated that the waste is not PCB contaminated with 90% certainty.

The characterization of all of the drums and buckets appeared to be similar, therefore, the contents of the 5 55-gallon drums, the 4 30-gallon drums, and the 14 5-gallon buckets were bulked together in 3 55-gallon drums for disposal. The empty drums were cut up and bagged for disposal. START collected samples from two of the drums of composited material for waste disposal characterization.

ERRS dug a test pit of the stained area around the previous location of the drums. The contamination appeared to be only on the surface of the soil. ERRS began removal of the contaminated soil and placed it into 55-gallon drums for disposal. START collected soil samples from the excavated soil for waste disposal characterization. The liquid and soil samples were delivered to Severn Trent Laboratory in University Park, Illinois.

At 2230, ERRS completed removal of contaminated soil. A total of 3 55-gallon drums containing approximately 115 gallons of liquid waste, 12 55-gallon drums containing solid waste, and 9 bags of debris were collected for disposal. ERRS marked off the area of excavation. START and ERRS demobilized from site. START and ERRS proceeded to the Mundelein Public Works facility to store a total of 15 55-gallon drums and 9 bags of debris until disposal can be arranged.

B. Next Steps

U.S. EPA is awaiting waste characterization results of the liquid and soil wastes to determine disposal.

Costs?